

On page 4, line 4 from bottom to page 5, line 3, please the paragraph with the following rewritten paragraph:

AK --Since it is known from past experience that many defects are found in the head piece of the rolled material, the detection of defects according to claim 9 is started only with a time delay, notably depending on the final rolling speed (3 m/s to 15 m/s), so that the head piece, which has to be cropped in any case, is disregarded in the detection as well as marking steps.--

On page 5, please replace the first complete paragraph with the following rewritten paragraph:

AK<sup>3</sup> --According to claim 9, provision is made that the detected individual defects are summed up during a preset period of time and the marking command is triggered only once a previously defined defect relevance level has been reached.--

On page 5, please replace the third complete paragraph with the following rewritten paragraph:

AK --According to claim 10, the detected relevant defects are marked directly on the hot rolled material shortly after the latter has exited from the last rolling stand, thus before the material is cut to the length of the cooling bed.--